

Mr. DUPRE (Translation): We find that the report of the Secretary of State for the year 1929-30, was issued in English in March, 1931, and in French in January, 1932, namely, a delay of 10 months.

An hon. MEMBER (Translation): Who is to blame?

Mr. ST-PERE (Translation): Was the English version handed over immediately to the translators?

Mr. DUPRE (Translation): The report of the Labour department for 1929-30, was issued in English in March, 1931, and in French in March, 1932, namely, a delay of 12 months, and so forth. I have here a list of 15 reports the French version of which was only issued long after the English one, and the delay varies from 17 months to 12, 9, 7 and 6 months.

Mr. BEAUBIEN (Translation): Who is to blame?

Mr. DURANLEAU (Translation): Your system.

Mr. DUPRE (Translation): Such are the conditions we wish to remedy.

The second advantage we find in this measure, is that it defines and specifies the responsibility in connection with the translation. With the present system, this responsibility is vague and undetermined. Sometimes no one knows who is responsible for the delay. In the future, one minister alone will be held responsible for the translation and, if delays occur in the translation or if it is not satisfactory, he will equally be held responsible and must account for same.

Mr. BARRETTE (Translation): Hear, hear!

Mr. DUBOIS (Translation): While the other ministers will wash their hands of the whole affair!

Mr. DUPRE (Translation): It is unfair to blame the government unless the latter is given full authority to act. This authority, in the future, will devolve on the Secretary of State or any other minister of the crown who may from time to time be appointed by order of the governor in council, pursuant to paragraph 2, section 3.

Third advantage: this measure will improve the translation.

It is quite clear that in translation as in other work, specialization gives better results. This bill will in no way hamper specialization. It shall be the duty of the superintendent to see that translations are

done by the most qualified translators, according to their fitness and training. His duty will be to encourage specialists.

Mr. BARRETTE (Translation): Hear, hear!

Mr. DUPRE (Translation): Fourth advantage: a better distribution of work.

Is it fair and rational that a number of translators should be overtaxed with work while others are unemployed for months?

Reports, such as those of the imperial conference or interprovincial conference, must be speedily and well translated. However, as such reports are not published by any department, no department is therefore responsible for their translation or publication. Thanks to the bureau created by the present bill, these reports will be translated and issued simultaneously.

May I, sir, refute certain objections raised against this measure?

It was stated that this bill will destroy the bilingual character of every department. The report of the Sellar commission was even quoted. The Sellar commission, if I be not mistaken, settles this question.

The reports states:

From the information before the committee, the general consensus of opinion in the departments is in favour of the statu quo.

Which means that the deputy ministers prefer keeping their translators in their departments. We have no desire by this bill, and nothing to the contrary is stated, to deprive the various departments of translators who are already there doing their daily task. These translators will remain in the departments if the latter wish to keep them. Far from wishing to destroy the bilingual character of departments, the present Act increases it, even totally and definitely so, by translating not only the reports which departments table in the house but also, pursuant to the letter of the law, all reports of the administration and others, all documents, proceedings and correspondence.

By what distortion can it be said that the new act places the French language on the same level as foreign languages? I fail to see. All are aware, it goes without saying, that no foreign language is recognized by our constitution. The only two official languages are French and English, and the former is given, by the new act, rights which implement its status and extends its sphere to all official papers of the administration.

Mr. BARRETTE (Translation): Hear, hear!